

## Summary of Proposed Ordinance Relating to Stormwater/Surface Water Runoff Policy

This summary applies to the proposed Stormwater Ordinance dated December 10, 2002, and fulfills the state Growth Management Act and King County Code 20.18.100 requirement for a “plain language” summary.

The proposed Stormwater Ordinance amends the surface and storm water runoff regulations for new development and redevelopment in unincorporated King County. These regulations establish the basic requirements for the design of drainage facilities and the submittal of drainage plans for review by King County as part of permit review.

Drainage facilities include stormwater ponds and other devices that mitigate the increased runoff and pollution caused by development. The King County Surface Water Design Manual provides more specific requirements for the design and review of required drainage facilities. The manual will be amended to be consistent with the proposed Stormwater Ordinance.

The amendments proposed by the Stormwater Ordinance and to the Surface Water Design Manual are intended to increase the protection of water quality and fish habitat consistent with state and federal requirements.

### **Amendments to K.C.C. chapter 9.04, “Surface Water Runoff Policy”**

**Section 1** – Definitions (*K.C.C. 9.04.020*) Revised as follows:

- Clarify and update existing definitions.
- Add several new definitions and amend others related to when and what type of drainage review is required by King County as a result of clearing and grading or other changes in land surface that affect the amount and quality of stormwater runoff.
- Add several new definitions and amend others related to the amendments in Section 2 and 3 below.

**Section 2** – Drainage Review – When Required – Type. (*K.C.C. 9.04.030*)

Revised as follows:

- The impervious surface threshold for when drainage review is required of a development proposal is reduced from 5,000 square feet of added impervious surface to 2,000 square feet. In RA zones, the threshold is reduced to 500 square feet.
- A new threshold is added that requires drainage review when there is 7,000 square feet or more of land disturbing activity. A similar limitation currently applies only to areas with clearing restrictions.
- The threshold for when drainage review is required of larger redevelopment projects is changed from one based on the total cost of proposed improvements to one based on the cost of proposed improvements relative to the assessed value of existing improvements.
- A new threshold is added that requires drainage review of transportation redevelopment projects when they increase impervious surface more than fifty percent.

**Section 3 – Drainage Review - Requirements. (K.C.C. 9.04.050)**

Revised as follows:

- Requirements applied through drainage review are updated or clarified.
- The threshold for the amount of impervious surface requiring a flow control facility or best management practices (BMPs) is reduced from 5,000 square feet to 2,000 square feet. In RA zones, the threshold is reduced to 500 square feet. The clearing or alteration of 35,000 square feet or more of pervious land surface also requires a flow control facility or BMPs.
- Flow control requirements for redevelopment projects are revised to apply to both new and replaced impervious surface.
- Flow control and water quality requirements are revised to apply to impervious surface added on or after January 8, 2001, the effective date of the rule applying ESA take prohibitions to Puget Sound Chinook.
- Water quality requirements are revised to apply to the clearing or alteration of 35,000 square feet or more of pervious land surface that is subject to the use of pesticides or fertilizers.
- A requirement is added that applies an effective impervious surface limit of ten percent to RA zoned parcels.
- Terminology related to adjustments of drainage review requirements is corrected.